

- The MONTH with the EDITOR -

Notes, reflections, extracts from correspondence, comment upon medical and health news
in both the scientific and public press, briefs of sorts from here, there and everywhere.

We have been asked to accept a financially profitable advertisement from a new proposed *he-goat* farm.

We also recently declined the advertisement of a slaughterhouse offering to supply fresh "glands" at attractive rates.

"By-products" and "end-products" from slaughterhouses seem to be growing more numerous and expensive. Curiously enough, the price of meat does not decline.

EATING too much is bound to shorten your life," observed the doctor.

"That's right," agreed the farmer. "Pigs would live a good deal longer if they didn't make hogs of themselves."

IT IS not natural for your public to be objects of charity," writes Doctor Edwin Schisler (Journ. Mo. Med. Assn.). "One of the first laws of nature," continues this author, "is self-preservation and independence, which is taught in your schools, churches, and your actions of every-day life and handed down by your forefathers. Then why try to make dependents by forcing your different charities upon them?"

A June bug married an angleworm;
An accident cut her in two;
They charged the bug with bigamy,
Now what could the poor thing do?

I See by the Papers That—

—"The State Board of Osteopathic Examiners has been advised by the Attorney-General's office that city school boards could not, under the state law, employ osteopaths to examine children in the public schools, the law requiring licensed medical men for that work."

When King Nebuchadnezzar was restricted to a diet of grass his "hairs grew like eagles feathers and his nails like birds' claws"—at least, so says the Bible in the Book of Daniel.

Here's a hint to beauty specialists! Food faddists might also examine this "recent literature" with profit.

From Our Correspondents—

—Lemuel P. Adams, M. D. (Oakland) — The surgical "Conversaziones" are fine, and would like to see more of them in future numbers of our magazine.

—Alfred E. Banks, M. D. (San Diego) — Anent the surgical "Conversaziones," a sample of which is contained in the last issue of the Journal, permit me to state that the innovation is of the utmost interest and promise.

By all means continue this method of attack on the many vital questions which may be thus appropriately briefed.

—Roy Oliver Thompson, M. D. (Calexico, California) — The "Conversaziones" published in your latest Journal I think were a complete success. Give us some more of them, please.

—Julius R. Hamilton, M. D. (Hollywood, California) — I wish to thank you for the courtesy extended in the publication of the case report submitted by me, and your kindly comment in "Editor's Note" certainly lends encouragement to one to send in reports on any future cases that might be of sufficient interest for publication.

Please know your courtesy was appreciated.

—Doctor C. O. Sappington (Oakland) — I was very much interested in the article by Doctor Glaser on "The Doctor in Industrial Medicine," which appeared in the July issue. It was very well done, and I wrote a commendatory note to Dr. Glaser about it.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the fine piece of work that you have done in bringing the Journal to where it is at the present time as the finest type of state or section medical journal in the United States.

"Happiness defies the laws of mathematics;
To multiply it you have to divide it."

Doctor James M. Patton (Journal A. M. A., August 22, p. 564) gives an illuminating discussion of "Oculists or Optometrists—Which?" that every doctor, particularly in California, ought to read *carefully*.

It seems that California is to become the perennial proving ground for curious things pertaining to health.

Most doctors are not much concerned with a controversy as to whether or not the present incidence of infantile paralysis in California constitutes an epidemic.

But we are all disturbed by official reports of some eight or ten cases a day.

More than five times as much poliomyelitis as for corresponding periods last year should at least be interpreted as a danger signal.

Mose—Does yuh really love me or does yuh jes' think yuh do?

Rose—Yas, indeedy, Honey. Ah really loves yuh; Ah ain't done no thinkin' yet!

Other County Medical Societies, and even the California Medical Association, would serve themselves and their people well by emulating the very praiseworthy work of the Los Angeles County Medical Association's Narcotic Committee.

Their recent report (Bulletin of the Los Angeles County Society) shows wise conduct in a difficult situation. The report is too long to republish here, but of its nine short paragraphs of advice to members we read:

"Think five times before prescribing for addicts."

"Think one hundred times before joining reform movements."

A GOOD WAY to gauge the truth of any man's argument is to ascertain the motive behind it. Many a cause which seems on a high moral plane is resting on a nicely concealed substructure of self-interest. — Ohio Health News.

"What do you make a week?" asked a judge of an Italian organ-grinder.

"Twenty dollars, sare."

"What, \$20 for grinding an organ?"

"No, sare; not for da grind, but for da shut up and go away."

THE DISTURBING INTERVIEW published in the San Francisco Bulletin by Mr. Frederick L. Hoffman, statistician for the Prudential Life Insurance Company of New York, about the alleged excessive prevalence of cancer in San Francisco, and the Challenge written by this editor and published in the same paper the next day, is still bringing reactions in letters and messages from doc-

tors, and even more so, from the public of the whole community.

Of all the letters and messages, only one—and it was written by a doctor—"protested" about the rough handling of Mr. Hoffman, who, this doctor claims, ought to have the "active support of the medical profession in his work."

The recent serious illness of Doctor H. J. Hanzlik explains the absence of his excellent editorials from CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE during the last few months.

Doctor Hanzlik is professor of pharmacology of Stanford University and a member of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. It is a pleasure to the editor that his splendid monthly editorials on some phase of pharmacology and therapeutics have been missed by our readers. Doctor Hanzlik has now recovered, and we will again hear from him monthly.

From the Medical Press—

—Does roentgen ray modify the course of whooping cough? Faber and Struble of San Francisco (Journal A. M. A., September 12) say not. They supply some rather convincing evidence upon which their conclusions are based.

—Novasurol, ammonium chlorid, and controlled diet provide promising results in the treatment of patients suffering from nephritis and edema, according to Keith, Barrier, and Whelan (Journal A. M. A., September 12).

The gratifying results from the combination indicated was not secured by either of the three agents alone.

—Calmette and his co-workers keep hammering away on "B. C. G." their anti-tuberculosis vaccine (Am. Inst. Pasteur). Calmette is a veteran, daring and resourceful investigator, and let us hope that something practical comes out of his novel and extensive experimentation with the human-like apes in Africa.

The faster you travel the quicker you will reach the end of the road.

Old age and death are your last stations. Why hurry so?

MR. — OF LOS ANGELES was injured in a motor accident. He was examined by a "licensed doctor," whose report of his findings reads:

"Had an X-ray taken at once for which reads Fourth Cervical to Sixth Cervical left rotary Scoliosis (causing the neck to be pulled to the left side), causing dispoenea, preception dull and nervousness. Second: Seventh Dorsal to Ninth Dorsal right Scoliosis (causing torpid condition of liver and kidneys, and auto-intoxication absorbing toxine). A contraction of the Lumbosacrael muscles, drawing right hip posterior, creating severe impingement of sciatic nerve. Also left knee injured by jar and causing severe pain of same. Patients suffers intestinal statis, absorption of toxines, and in general a fit subject of rest for at least two months after he is put shape at this office."

The physician to whom the patient eventually applied for service thought the above gem would be interesting news. It is. It is more than that. It's a whole arbeits that tells a lot.

"Exhausted Nutritives"—Under this heading the Medical Journal and Record writes editorially: "We, or at least our children, are urged these days to eat various things which we do not want, and might, therefore, on general principles, seem not to need. Bowing to authority, many of us have followed humbly the leadings of the 'nutrition workers' and have taken spinach and carrots and their ilk as a matter of conscience. We make no complaint against this diet (even if we do not like it), provided we really take in the ingredients which are supposed to be contained in the prescribed foods. Now cometh the agricultural scientist and deposeth that spinach is, in many a garden patch, suffering from chlorosis. If the spinach suffers from chlorosis, will not the human who depends on spinach for his daily supply of iron also suffer from chlorosis?"

Medical Economics and Public Health

THIS IS ENCOURAGING
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health

Preventive Medicine From Your Family Physician

"There are at least three common diseases that can be prevented. Any case of these diseases in your family means that available methods have not been used.

"(1) Smallpox may be prevented through vaccination. Recently smallpox has been widely spread over the country, and in some places it has been of the malignant type.

"(2) Typhoid fever may be prevented through the periodic injection of typhoid vaccine. 'Vacation' typhoid is mounting with the increased crowding of the country.

"(3) All your family can be protected against diphtheria. Your private physician will explain how.

"Diseases of middle life, due to 'wear and tear,' such as Bright's disease, arteriosclerosis, cancer, and diabetes are increasing. These diseases can be combated by corrected habits and early recognition. Periodic health examinations at all ages may save you from these diseases.

"Talk these matters over with your physician."

The Massachusetts Public Health Department "believing that the *private physician* is the ultimate unit in *preventive medicine* as in curative medicine," has prepared the above postcard for wide distribution. Physicians, hospitals, and all other health workers are invited to help distribute the cards.

This is one example of the many that are now being published, which seems to indicate that the practice of personal health by *public* health departments is on the decline. It is true that some boards of health still continue the operation of "health centers" and other contrivances for the private practice of medicine under the guise of public health, but they apparently are less numerous than they were a few years ago.

Some of the best public health departments have never entered the field of personal practice. Others from time to time announce their withdrawal from the field, and still others, like the Massachusetts Public Health Department, are now urging people to *go back to personal health doctors for personal health services, both preventive and curative.*

The Wayne County (Michigan) Medical Society is actively engaged in an effort to induce all of its members to have a physical examination. Preliminary reports indicate probable success.

A DOCTOR DOES NOT SECURE "BUSINESS" in Industrial Medicine by destructive criticism of the law and the methods of its enforcement.

Two of the three fundamental essentials to secure and hold "business" of this character are a complete knowledge of the provisions of the law as interpreted by the Industrial Accident Commission and a constant, prompt carrying out, in every instance of these requirements. The third essential is not included in this discussion.

Mr. W. H. Pillsbury, attorney for the Commission, authoritatively discusses the law in all that it signifies and in its many and far-reaching applications in "California Safety News" of December, 1924, and March and June, 1925. If Mr. Pillsbury would complete the discussion by a chapter thoroughly outlining doctors' and other medical agencies' responsibilities in the carrying out of this law as interpreted by rulings and actions of the Commission, the result would be wholesome.

Health Officers Recently Appointed (State Board of Health Weekly Bulletins)—Mr. J. J. Saunders has been appointed health officer of Covina. It should be noted that East Covina is under the supervision of the Los Angeles County Health Department, but that the city of Covina is not included under county supervision.

Mr. C. E. Wood has been appointed health officer of Oakdale, succeeding Mr. R. L. Acker, deceased.

Neither of the above appointees are licensed to practice medicine and surgery in the state of California.